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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): T. OTSUBO, et al

Serial No.: 09/842,000

Filed: April 26, 2001

For: PLASMA PROCESSING APPARATUS AND PROCESSING METHOD

Group: 1765

Examiner: K. Chen

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 8, 2002

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Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated October 8, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4-6, which are subject to a restriction requirement, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and without prejudice to the right to file a divisional application directed thereto.

REMARKS

In response to the requirement for restriction to one of the inventions identified as invention I - claims 1-3, 7 and 8, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 156, subclass 345, and invention II - claims 4-6, drawn to plasma processing, classified in class 216, subclass 70, applicants elect invention I and have, by the present amendment, canceled claims 4-6 without prejudice to the right to file a divisional

application directed thereto. Accordingly, only invention I of claims 1-3, 7 and 8 remain in this application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, favorable action with respect to invention I is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.39737X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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